PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings once again from Aurora (Ontario), where we have been experiencing even more strange weather, with the forecasters predicting storms and possible snow. However, despite the terrible results of the hurricane on the East Coast of the U.S., we felt very little of it here in Canada and everyone is gearing up for the 100th Grey Cup of Canadian football (our version of the Super Bowl), with the Toronto Argonauts taking on the Calgary Stampeders.

In an earlier message, I stated that I was thinking of getting rid of my thematic collections and I have been working away at this for several weeks. Actually, it is quite entertaining to look through all of the material that I have accumulated over the years and now I have to go through my exhibit and strip out all the stamps that belong in sets that are waiting in stock books. Luckily, I kept all of the material that I did not need from sets containing insect stamps that I had arranged in three-ring binders. So, it has been relatively easy to re-assemble all the sets and then go to the local library where they have a set of recent Scott catalogues and start cataloguing everything!

This exercise products some surprises, as material that I had purchased some years ago has appreciated considerably in value. The next item on the agenda is finding dealers that are willing to take the material off my hands, and I suspect that this is going to be the most difficult part of the exercise. At the very least I hope to make sure that there will be no collections hanging around to create problems for my heirs, as it is usual to find that they know nothing about stamps, or where to go to dispose of them. There was a fairly good article on this subject in a recent issue of the APS journal.

Christmas is fast approaching and the magazines and newspapers are full of ads trying to persuade us to buy more "stuff" as gifts. With that in mind, I hope that all of our members will have a happy and enjoyable holiday. Also, a vote of thanks for our Editor and all the contributors that help in producing our journal.

Until next time… *Alan J. Hanks*